

Message Text

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MEXICO PASS AGATTACHE FOR CRUIT

FODAG

EO 11652: NA
TAGS: UN, FAO, AORG
SUBJ: UN OVERVIEW COMMITTEE/WORLD FOOD COUNCIL/FAO

REF: ROME 9405 (NOTAL)

1. FODAG HAS HAD SEPARATE DISCUSSION WITH D. J. WALTON, DIRECTOR, FAO OFFICE FOR INTER-AGENCY AFFAIRS, A. G. LEEKS, DIRECTOR, FAO COMMODITIES AND TRADE DIVISION, AND HARRY WLATERS, WFC SECRETARTIAT, CONCERNING THEIR VIEWS OF HOW THE OVERVIEW COMMITTEE RELATES TO THE FAO AND WFC.

2. WALTER EXPRESSED VIEW THAT OVERVIEW COMMITTEE REPRESENTS SIGNIFICANT OPPORUNITY FOR FAO. HE SAID FAO HAD BEEN ASKED BY OVERVIEW COMMITTEE STAFF TO PREPARE PAPERS TO SERVE AS THE BASIC DOCUMENTS FOR OVERVIEW COMMITTEE DISCUSSION ON AGRICULTURE. FAO IS IN CONSULTATION WITH OTHER INTERNATION ORGANIZATIONS, SUCH AS UNCTAD AND UNIDO, ON DOCUMENTATION TO BE PREPARED. DR. NURAL ISLAM IS DIRECTING THIS WORK. WALTON HOPES IT WILL BE COMPLETED
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IN RELATIVELY NEAR FUTURE FOR SUBMISSION TO OVERVIEW COMMITTEE FOR DISTRIBUTION.

3. WALTON ALSO INDICATED HE EXPECTED A CONTINUING RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN FAO AND TH OVERVIEW COMMITTEE WHICH WOULD NOT BE LIMITED TO NEXT MEETING IN SEPTEMBER. HE SAW FAO AS TECNICAL BODY WHICH FRAMES ISSUES TO BE TKANE UP BY OVERVIEW COMMITTEE

WHICH, IN TURN, MAKES POLITICAL DECISIONS ON ISSUES. WALTON DESCRIBED WFC ROLES AS ONLY PART OF PICTURE BECAUSE WFC DEALS ONLY WITH FOOD WHEREAS FAO DEALS NOT ONLY WITH FOOD BUT WITH ALL AGRICULTURE, INCLUDING TIMBER AND FISHERIES. IN WALTON'S VIEW, FAO WOULD BE LEAD AGENCY FOR ALL OF AGRICULTURE.

4. HARRY WALTERS OF WFC HAS SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT VERSION OF STORY. HE VIEWS WFC SECRETARIAT AS "AN APPENDAGE" OF OVERVIEW COMMITTEE. WFC, AS MAIN POLITICAL BODY, SHOULD BE FEEDING ISSUES TO OVERVIEW COMMITTEE FOR DECISIONS. WALTERS SAYS THAT SOMEWHERE IN HIS FILES HE HAS A LETTER FROM THE STAFF OF THE OVERVIEW COMMITTEE APOLOGIZING FOR REQUESTING DIRECTLY TO FAO TO PROVIDE DOCUMENTATION ON FOOD. ACCORDING TO WALTERS, THE LETTER FURTHER INDICATES THAT, IN THE FUTURE, THEY WOULD REQUEST WFC TO BE LEAD AGENCY IN PREPARATION OF DOCUMENTATION IN FOOD AREA. WALTON WENT ON TO SAY THE OVERVIEW COMMITTEE HAD CONSULTED WITH WFC ON MATERIAL THEY WANTED TO BE PREPARED, BUT WFC INDICATED THEY DID NOT HAVE TIME TO PROVIDE INPUT BECAUSE OF UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETING.

5. ANTHONY LEEKS INDICATED FAO IS PROCEEDING WITH PREPARATION OF DOCUMENTATION FOR OVERVIEW COMMITTEE. HE INDICATED GREAT DEAL OF CONFUSION EXISTS AS TO WHAT TRANSPIRED AT RECENT MEETING OF COMMITTEE AND FAO IS NOT QUITE SURE WHAT THEY SHOULD BE PREPARING. INDEED, HE STATED THAT THEY HAVE ALREADY DONE SOME WORK. (COMMENT: APPARENTLY ALMOST FINISHED IT), BUT IN VIEW LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF STATE OF AFFAIRS IN NEW YORK, THEY HAD STARTED OVER AGAIN. WHAT THEY ARE DOING THIS TIME IS PREPARING DOCUMENTATION ON VARIOUS AGRICULTURAL ISSUES WHICH WILL BE SUBMITTED TO OVERVIEW COMMITTEE. AGAIN, LIKE WALTON, LEEKS VIEWS FAO AS LEAD AGENCY IN TECHNICAL PREPARATION FOR AGRICULTURAL SUBJECTS TO BE DISCUSSED IN NEW YORK. HE EMPHASIZED THAT FAO HAS THE TECHNICAL EXPERTS TO PROVIDE DOCUMENTATION ACROSS THE BOARD.

6 COMMENT: OVERVIEW COMMITTEE WITH FULL MEMBERSHIP WILL FROM OUR STANDPOINT BE SOMEWHAT MORE UNWIELDY FORUM FOR FOOD ISSUES THAN WFC. IT DOES NOT APPEAR TO US HERE THAT ANY SERIOUS CONSIDERATION HAS BEEN GIVEN, IN DECISION TO PUT AGRICULTURE ISSUES ON OVERVIEW COMMITTEES'S DOCKET TO EFFECT THAT THIS WILL HAVE ON WFC ROLE AND WFC-FAO RELATIONS. WE SUSPECT THAT EAGER FAO RESPONSE TO THIS PRODUCT OF A RESTRUCTURING PROCESS WHICH FAO/DG GENERALLY DISPARAGES MAY RELATE TO A DESIRE TO SEE WFC REPLACED BY A LESS COMPETITIVE BODY MORE RESPONSIVE TO G-77 MANIPULATION. G-77 EFFORT, INSPIRED BY DG, TO STALL AN AMERICAN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF WFC WOULD BE RELATED. GARDNER

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